Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 NSAE-00 SIL-01 AF-10 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 L-03 USIE-00 IO-13 INRE-00 SSO-00 /081 W

O 250927Z MAY 77
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7637

CONFIDENTIAL GENEVA 4079

IO FOR WHILDEN; PASS LABOR FOR ILAB

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PLAB, ILO

SUBJ: DEMARCHE ON 63RD INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE

REF: (A) STATE 102699 (B) STATE 103403; (C) COLOMBO 1782

1. WE HOPE THAT US DEMARCHE (REFS A AND B) WILL BE BETTER RECEIVED BY FOREIGN MINISTER THAN BY LABOR MINISTER SIRI WARDENA AND SECRETARY DE MEL (REF C). SRI LANKA REPS HERE (DE ALWIS AND BRECKENRIDGE) HAVE OFTEN TAKEN LEAD IN G-77 AND NON-ALIGNED GROUPS IN MOBILIZING OPPOSITION TO US OBJECTIVES IN ILO. THIS IS TRUE EVEN IN GOVERNING BODY WHERE SRI LANKA COULD HAVE REMAINED ANONYMOUS IN SECRET BALLOTS. GSL SHOULD BE AWARE THAT WE ARE ASKING IT TO WEIGH ITS INTEREST AGAINST SHORT TERM PRESSURE FROM THE ARABS ON THE ONE HAND AND THE EFFECT OF US WITHDRAWAL ON THE ILO ON THE OTHER HAND. WE HAVE MADE THIS POINT VERY CLEARLY TO BRECKENRIDGE, BUT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF SRI LANKA DELEGATION HAD CLEAR INSTRUCTIONS TO SUPPORT US POSITIONS IN THE CORRIDORS AND IN THE G-77 CAUCUS.

2. ACTION REQUESTED: IN ADDITION TO DEMARCHE TO FOREIGN CONFIDENTIAL

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MINISTER, THAT DE MEL BE GIVEN FULL BRIEFING BEFORE HE LEAVES FOR GENEVA. CONSIDERING KEY ROLE SRI LANKA PLAYS IN THIRD WORLD GROUPS, DEPARTMENT AND COLOMBO MAY ALSO WISH TO CONSIDER REPEATING DEMARCHE TO PRIME MINISTER. SORENSON

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	Margaret P. Grafeld	Declassified/Released	US Department of State	EO Systematic Review	22 May 2009
INN					

Message Attributes

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